AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 15-19 as shown in the following complete list of claims:

1.-5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Amended) An isolated control nucleic acid for use in a reaction for the amplification of a target nucleic acid region, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

7. (Previously Amended) The isolated control nucleic acid of Claim 6, wherein said target nucleic acid region comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

8. (Previously Amended) The isolated control nucleic acid of Claim 6, wherein said target nucleic acid region comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

9. (Original) A composition comprising a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

10. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

11. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel

complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

13. (Original) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual, a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

14. (Original) The kit of Claim 13, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

15. (New) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

16. (New) The kit of claim 15, further comprising primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

17. (New) The kit of claim 16 further comprising a control nucleic acid-specific probe.

18. (New) The kit of claim 17 further comprising an enzyme.

19. (New) The kit of claim 18 further comprising a reaction buffer.